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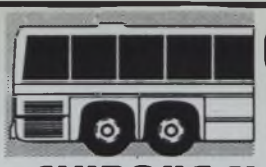

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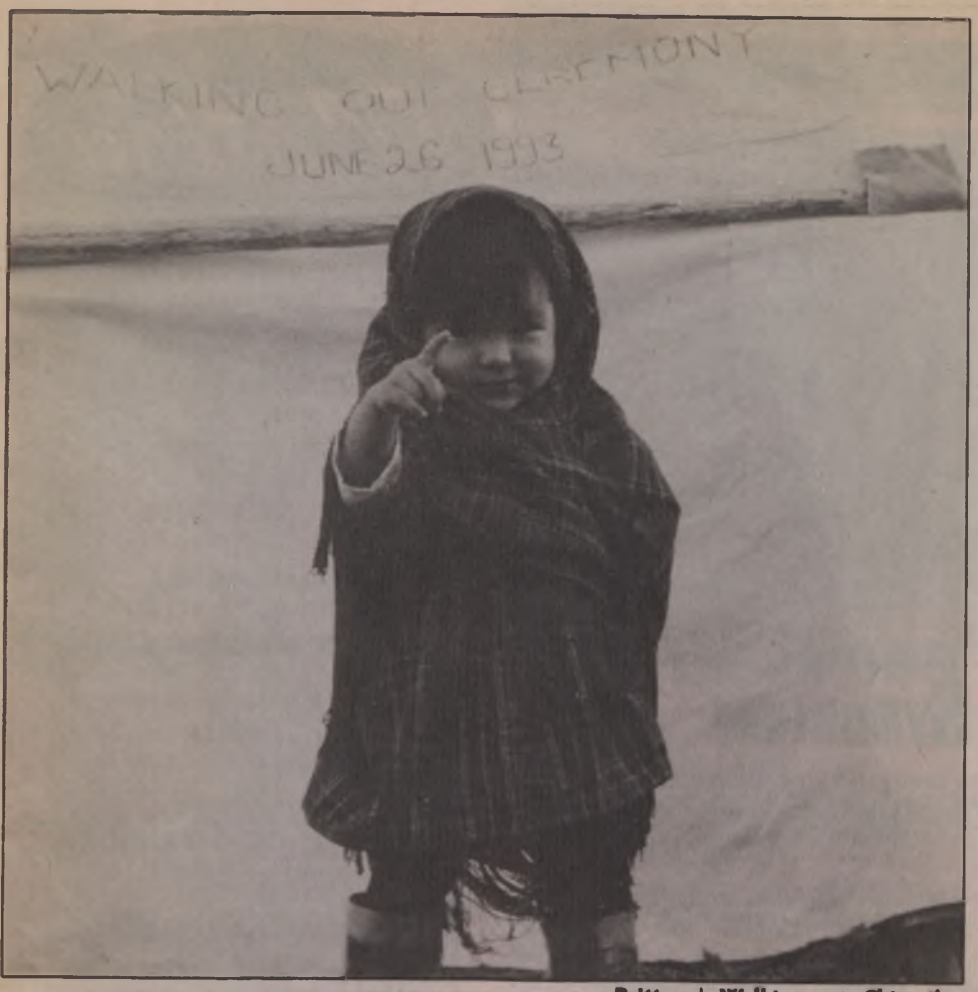

JAMES BOBBISH

Brittany's Walking out, Chisasibi.

WALKING OUT

When the early morning sun rises
Welcoming spring awaits
Awaits for my child to take its first step
Onto the fresh smell of picked boughs
His first pathway in life to the new world before him.

Spring is gentle to the child
Still cool and crisp, yet warm and tender
She welcomes him with the early song of geese
And the warmth of the rising sun.

The child is now ready
Standing at the edge of the mijuuap door
He looks like a little warrior ready to kill his first prey.
While smiling faces carefully watch him
He finally takes his first step onto the sacred ground of Mother Earth.

The Great Spirit guides the child in a circle of Love
A Love that will burn like a creeping fire
Everlasting as the moon and stars.
With his strength by his side,
The child will grow into a proud man
Respecting and understanding his mother, Nature.

Love, Judy Washipabano

This poem is dedicated to my son, Wesley-John Washipabano, who had his walking out in the spring of 1995.

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COVER PHOTO
Fashion by D'Arcy Moses at Montreal Fur and Fashion Show. Photographer: Neil Diamond.

JUNE 2, 1995

The Bambi Syndrome

In this issue of *The Nation* you will read some pretty shocking statements (see fur story, page 12). Shocking at least to any of you who haven't had a run-in with the animal rights groups. *The Nation* staff attended a fur show in Montreal and of course outside met up with the anti-fur evangelists and their converts.

The reason I call them evangelists is that the one time I attended an anti-fur rally it was like entering some sort of temple and seeing a Billy Graham Crusade Special gone bad with plenty of hellfire, testimonials, fanaticism and a sort of speaking in tongues. When they spoke in tongues it was more of a "say what?" situation for me. As the local pro-fur anti-Christ, I did get up and speak my piece but was quietly flanked by over-sized ushers from rebutting answers to my concerns and questions.

As with most people, they didn't enjoy hearing someone say their fight was hurting people. Well, they didn't really think about that because most of them don't know Natives and their culture. In fact most weren't even aware of the extent that they could hurt Native culture and some didn't care.

This is hard to take sometimes but you should be aware of their motives. I mean they have a genuine desire to help the other inhabitants of the land besides humans. They however lack knowledge of the Crees and the land. Most come from cities where their experience with animals is the occasional raccoon, squirrel or flying rats as they like to call geese in Toronto and other parts.

Anthropologist Harvey Feit said it best when he said these people were suffering from the Bambi complex. Basically the Bambi complex is a human being's desire to include animals as part of the family of humans. Where the Crees and other Natives call the animals brother and accord them equality in the game of life, the Bambies don't. In their world, the animal is relegated to the position of a child to be protected from the bad adults who might take advantage of them. In the case of the fur industry, that translates into fur ranchers and trappers.

The fur outlets are a target because to the media it's more exciting than driving a hundred miles to cover the blockade of a fur ranch. And who could really manage to interfere with a Cree trapper all year-round? The anti-fur people would have to spend long periods of time in the bush following a trapper without knowledge of the area or how to survive. They might even learn something or have to partake of the trappers' hospitality. This might lead to doubts and a follower would be lost.

Sorry, just a fantasy but in reality it is a little harder to hurt someone you know than someone you don't. This is why we should endeavour not only to educate but get to know the anti-fur people. You might not change the minds of the hard-core believers but you have a chance to change the way some people think and act. This would be better than becoming angry and just reinforcing their ideas and opinions about Natives. That would just give them a reason to dehumanize Natives in the fur wars.

Be calm and reasonable, it can't hurt and might even help.

by William Nicholls

the Nation

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CREES, PQ AGREE TO BURY THE HATCHET

A dramatic breakthrough has occurred in Cree-Quebec relations.

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come and Cree Chiefs met for the first time with Premier Jacques Parizeau on May 23. They agreed to resume formal talks on a wide variety of oustanding issues from economic development, infrastructure, services for Elders and the "modernization" of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

The deal puts an end to six years without formal talks between Crees and Quebec. Talks were suspended in 1989 when the Liberal government announced plans to build the Great Whale River Project.

The surprise deal with Quebec is outlined in a two-page "memorandum of understanding" (see page 18 for the full text). It was negotiated between Chief Billy Diamond and David Cliche, PQ advisor on Native affairs.

"We can go to court but we still have to talk. We can go to the international community and make speeches but we still have to talk," said Grand Chief Coon Come. "We haven't given up anything. But I think we have an obligation to Crees to take this government to task."

The Grand Chief said Quebec sovereignty is not on the table. "We agreed to disagree on the issue of sovereignty," he said, adding that Crees will discuss their future at upcoming hearings of the Eeyou-Astchee Commission.

Quebec agrees to start talks on giving Crees funds for sewers and water distribution, economic development and care of Elders and people with disabilities. Talks will also start on revenue-sharing from development projects, reorganizing the SEBJ and SDBJ, and eventually larger questions like the James Bay Agreement and self-government. In return, the Cree side temporarily shelved the court action against the Great Whale project.

"I think the intention is there. There's a political will," said the Grand Chief. "The only way to do this is to sit down at the table. Actions will speak louder than words, and the results will hopefully come at a later time."

Asked if the deal gives a boost to the PQ's sovereignty plans, he said, "No, it doesn't worry me. We didn't agree we'd stop our activities internationally."

But Deputy Grand Chief Kenny Blacksmith had a few concerns. "I strongly recommended to the Cree Chiefs not to sign," he said. "Basically we do everything for them and they do nothing for us."

Chief Blacksmith said he and other Chiefs "only learned at the 11th hour" about the deal and Crees didn't have enough time to discuss it internally. He said the deal gave the PQ "a photo-op for their own agenda," while Crees got only minor concessions on services which other Canadians take for granted as basic rights. Larger questions like self-government, Aboriginal rights and recognition of the Cree people as a nation are getting overlooked, he added.

"I'm not against everything that's being done," he said. "I'm just concerned."

At a meeting of Chiefs to discuss the deal one day before the signing, at least one Chief reportedly had reservations.

Chief Matthew Mukash, who couldn't be in Quebec City, told Will Nicholls he is concerned by the lack of debate. "The people should've been given an opportunity to examine this before it was signed. No Band Councils got a chance to see this."

More in our next issue.

—Alex Roslin

LET YOUR MODEM DO THE WALKING

A new computer Bulletin Board Service for the Crees has been added to the so-called information highway.

The "Creenet BBS" was launched by the Wemindji First Nation on May 8. It is the first electronic bulletin board in northern Quebec.

Anyone with a modem can call the BBS at 819-978-0303 to publicize or read about community events, services offered by the band or entities, job openings, sports scores, vacation tips, mail a letter in a split-second... or just gossip.

"I'm just one of those in-house cyber dudes."

—Mike McGee

Yes, gossip. Using Creenet's "chat" service, you can talk to anyone who is on one of the BBS's seven other phone lines through your computer keyboard.

Creenet also has space for the radio stations and print media to exchange news, a private space reserved for each of the nine communities, room for advertising and even space for anonymous tips to *The Nation*! There are also programs that can be loaded onto your computer, including 40 to 50 games.

Anyone around the world can phone Creenet to learn about the Cree people. For Crees the only cost is long-distance to Wemindji. You can go on for a maximum of two hours per day. Non-Crees pay $10 a month.

"It's a local phone call and the world is at your fingertips," says Mike McGee, who started Creenet as Wemindji's economic development director.

The start-up cost to Wemindji was $10,000, plus $8,000 a year for phone lines. A Cree is now being trained to take over as Creenet's "system operator" *(or*

continued on page 6

WEMINDJI HOPES FOR INTERNET HOOK-UP

continued from page 5

"sysop"... gotta get used to this computer jargon—Ed.)

McGee said Creenet is the band's attempt to communicate better with its members. Some members have complained about secrecy in the administration led by Chief Walter Hughboy.

McGee said Creenet gives all Cree bands and entities the same ability to improve their communications with the people.

"Band members were always asking for band information and they have a right to that. But it takes time to dig through files to find that stuff."

Each band has a confidential space on Creenet open only to members of that band. Band Councils can use this space to make public financial reports, minutes of meetings and by-laws. No outsiders will be able to see this information, except the system operator in Wemindji.

By next fall, Wemindji plans to expand Creenet into a full-fledged "Internet" server, another first for northern Quebec. The Internet will give Crees access to world-wide discussion groups on hundreds of topics, everything from First Nations news to Beverly Hills 90210.

Also available will be hundreds of free computer programs, and you can send "e-mail" (electronic mail) for free anywhere in James Bay or around the globe.

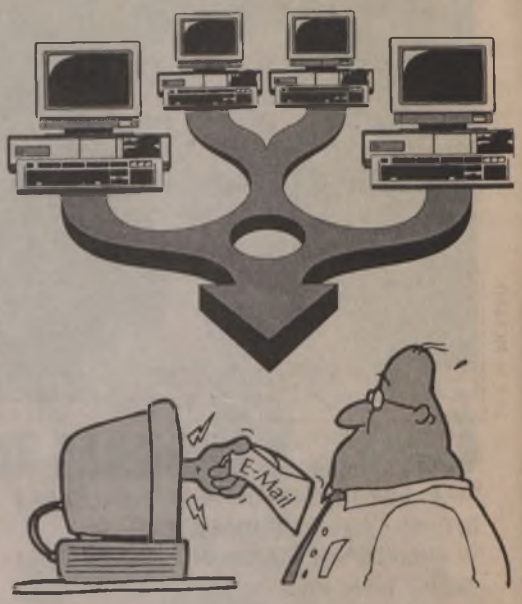
"It will open the doors to every single computer in the world," said McGee.

Internet will cost Wemindji another $50,000, plus $60-70,000 a year in operating expenses.

McGee is currently working on a business plan for the Internet which still has to be approved by the Quebec Ministry of Communications.

The plan is already supported by the Telebec phone company, which agreed to pay for an upgrade of the phone line from Val d'Or to Wemindji.

—Nation staff



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PAUL M. RICKARD

SPRING GOOSE HUNT NO LONGER ILLEGAL

After 79 years of being against the law, the spring goose hunt is now legal again.

This is according to recent amendments to the Migratory Birds Convention. The amendments finally recognize Native peoples' right to hunt at any time during the year according to their Aboriginal and treaty rights.

But the negotiations on the amendments have left many Cree leaders angered and skeptical, particularly because of one amendment which totally ignores traditional Native conservation practises.

"Our people have traditional conservation laws that exist and we use them," said Attawapiskat First Nation Chief Ignace Gull. "The negotiators didn't want to be bothered with us. They'd rather talk to a scientist and not get our side of the traditional knowledge of our Elders."

"It's disappointing," said Roseanne Archibald, Chair of the Mushkegowuk Council, commenting on the amendments.

She said that even though the amendments recognize Aboriginal and treaty rights, they still leave migratory birds and the right to hunt at the mercy of conservation measures created by provincial governments.

Because Aboriginal conservation laws have not been recognized, the right to hunt remains in jeopardy, Archibald said.

The amendments to the Convention say hunting must be guided by conservation principles which include monitoring, regulation, enforcement and compliance with government conservation measures.

"The changes limited the right again. It says people agree with conservation regimes. But our people had our own conservation which is not recognized by the Convention, the federal or provincial governments," said Archibald.

by Paul M. Rickard

The Migratory Birds Convention was originally signed in 1916 between the U.S. and Great Britain (signing for Canada). It banned the spring hunt and established hunting seasons in an effort to protect migratory birds, including waterfowl.

Canada and the U.S. agreed to the new amendments on May 8. The changes include recognition of section 35 of the Canadian Constitution which affirms Aboriginal and treaty rights, and also provide legal basis for Native people in Alaska to hunt.

According to Chief Gull, the biggest problem in the negotiations has been lack of Native involvement.

"These changes were done behind closed doors without First Nations people being informed or consulted," said Chief Gull.

In past years, Chief Gull said the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources has used the Convention to charge Native hunters for hunting out of season.

"We have to work together. Not the way it is now, where other people decide what to do in our own traditional territory," he said."But I don't think we will see any difference. We will keep on hunting as we did for many years."

Other changes to the Convention include giving non-Aboriginal residents of First Nations communities the same right to hunt as Native people.

The amendments still have to be ratified by the Canadian and U.S. governments before they come into law and a legal hunt can occur.

NITAHIGAN RETURNS TO VAL D'OR

With construction on its new building nearly finished, the Val d'Or Native Friendship Centre is organizing its second annual fundraising benefit supper and show, Nitahigan II.

The Nitahigan will be held June 17 at the Confortel Hotel on the theme "Good dreams find their way." It will include a cocktail and gourmet meal. Also a display of First Nations art and entertainment by First Nations artists.

The money will help the centre move to the new building. Construction was started at the end of 1994 and should be ready for an official opening July 18, 1995. The new building has three floors and will be able to offer a large variety of services—an arts and crafts boutique, a drop-in centre, a kitchen and dining room, a hostel, a conference room and community hall.

It will be located on 7th Street, across from the arena.

"We can say with pride that the work is advancing as planned but there is still a lot to do before our dream comes true," says the friendship centre, which turned 20 years old last year.

Tickets are $125 per person to support this cause. For information call: (819) 825-6857.

—Nation staff

TWO MISTISSINI CREES RECOGNIZED

Wally Rabbitskin and Jason Coonishish of Mistissini were honoured with awards at the Gala of Excellence in Chibougamau on May 6.

Wally was named athlete of the year for 1994, and Jason won an award for innovation in tourism. They were chosen from among candidates across northern Quebec.

Wally came in second of all 400-500 Canadians who entered the Boston Marathon in April. Overall, he came in 51st out of nearly 10,000 runners. His time in the tough 42-km race was 2 hours, 28 minutes, 25 seconds.

"I was pretty happy about that. It has given me a lot of confidence in myself and is going to probably motivate me to try harder in future races," said Wally.

Sometimes spoken of as a role-model,

briefs continued on page 9

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continued from page 7

he says, "I want to share with other people. It wouldn't do any good to just keep it to yourself and that is part of our culture too.

"It gives me great motivation when people ask me to talk to them."

Wally's advice to young Crees concerns "the importance of goal-setting—why you need a goal to go on in life. The only way you can achieve your goals is to work hard at them."

As for Jason Coonishish, only two years ago he was fresh out of Toronto Business School. Today he runs an adventure tourism company providing employment to four guides. Together they hosted 60 European tourists last year. All 60 tourists came back for another visit.

Jason has had a chance to travel to Sweden and France to promote the tourism possibilities of James Bay. In two or three years, his company, Native Adventures, will have to double its employees to keep up with the business. Helping Jason along the way was his cousin, Charlie Iserhoff, who's been in the bush all his life and a guide for nearly two decades.

Jason gives tourists a chance to design their own packages of one to six days in length. They can sleep over at Mistissini's culture camp, ski-doo out to a trapline and watch a trapper at work fishing, skinning hide and so on. "I like it because it's a way to show our culture and how we live."

—Alex Roslin

Nalukturuk apologizes

Makivik President Simeonie Nalukturuk has apologized to the people of Nunavik for getting into a car accident after drinking alcohol.

Nalukturuk made the apology on the "Qittaissaut" program broadcast by the TNI radio service in Salluit. The Inuit leader "promised to do better next time around," reported *Nunatsiaq News*.

Asked for a statement, Makivik spokesman Stephen Hendrie replied, "This is a private matter. The corporation has no official comment."

Nalukturuk could not be reached for comment by *The Nation*.

Montreal police can't release information about possible charges in the case until or unless a court hearing is held.

Zebedee Nungak, Makivik's first vice-president, refused to provide *The Nation* with any details about the incident. "If you didn't hear it (the radio), I'm not about to enlighten you," he said. "He has already made a comment to his constituents."

—Nation staff

Former Davis Inlet Chief jailed

Davis Inlet's former Chief, Katie Rich, and another woman from her community were recently jailed for evicting a judge from their community in 1993.

"We should be the ones who should judge our own people," Rich said in a statement from the Stephenville Women's Correctional Centre. "We were saying the whole justice system does not work for the Innu and does not meet our needs to heal."

She and Nympha Byrne were charged with contempt of court. They left four and six children behind respectively. They were expected to have to spend three weeks behind bars.

The story goes back to 1992 when two of the community's young people decided on their own initiative to take a policing course at the First Nations Tribal Police Institute in B.C. The community was policed at the time by the RCMP. Davis Inlet approached the province for recognition of its new peacekeepers and more training for them. The province refused and threatened to charge the peacekeepers with impersonating police officers.

The situation came to a head on Dec. 16, 1993 when Rich and other women in the community threw out the provincial judge. The government threatened to invade the community with military helicopters and heavily armed RCMP officers. Davis Inlet was isolated, its airstrip ordered shut by Ottawa and all air traffic ordered not to come within seven miles. Negotiations on land claims and social programs were suspended and remain so today.

Nonetheless, the Innu forced the government to sit down and finally start talking about justice issues. An interim policing agreement was signed. But the courts issue remains unsolved.

In a statement, the Innu Nation advises that letters of protest can be sent to: Premier Clyde Wells, P.O.B. 8700, Confederation Building, St. John's, NF, A1B 4J6, or fax (709) 729-5875. Or to: Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Government of Canada, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6, or fax (613) 957-5556.

—Nation staff

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Designs by D'Arcy Moses

Fur and Fashion Exposition

The North American Fur and Fashion Exposition in Montreal, now in its 14th year, is considered the biggest fair of its kind in North America. It is also one of the most important fur-marketing events in the world.

Over 200 fur, leather and fashion outwear designers, manufacturers and suppliers were on hand to exhibit at the fair. A majority were Canadian companies, but over a third were international exhibitors—mostly from the U.S., but also from Europe and Asia.

In attendance were over 5,500 buyers from Canada and around the world.

The focus of this year's event was a showcase of new talent and trends in the fur industry. The use of recycled fur and trimmings along with the traditional fur coat were highlights of the four-day event.

"The best thing about the year's fair was the many young designers featured," said Ysabel Trujillo, communications director of the Fur Council of Canada.

"We're seeing young designers like D'Arcy Moses who can make a statement and a garment."

The exposition included a showcase of young designers who used recycled fur for accessories that was displayed as part of a competition among young Quebec designers. Trujillo said the younger designers in their 20s and 30s stick to the principle that fur is renewable and a natural product, and this can be seen in their work.

"It's good for the fur industry, because it's a direction the furriers and consumers are taking," said Trujillo.

"Although this past year wasn't great for furs because of the warm weather, a lot of cosumers are buying things that suit their lifestyle.

"And they see fur coats are durable and natural."

The other highlights of the fair included looking into the future and forecasting that more consumers will be interested in buying recycled material. Designers are meeting that need.

"What we're also seeing is that more Native people like D'Arcy Moses are making their presence felt in the fur industry."

—*Paul M. Rickard*

Fur And Fashion Explosion

The Canadian fur industry held a Fur and Fashion Exposition in Montreal and many came. A major part of the festivities, as you might have seen from the cover in living black and white, was a fashion show in a hotel downtown. Featured in the show was Canada's premier Native designer, D'Arcy Moses. Moses is Dene from the Northwest Territories.

Another Native designer, but not of the clothing variety, Ted Moses of Eastmain, also made the scene. There were countless other big names present but I can't recall their names. They were, no doubt, giants in their chosen fields. Oh... PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) also put in a surprise appearance. Zeb, on the other hand, was nowhere to be seen.

Anyway... there was fur. Fur everywhere. Fur coats. Fur hats. Fur slacks. Fur gloves. Fur capes. Fur trains. Fur bows. "Recycled" fur. Fur blankets. Fur scarves and even something that looked like a fur wedding dress. And let's not forget the dyed fur that came in a myriad of colors. There was also the industry's latest technological marvel, washable fur.

In compliance with the Native content regulations of this journal I mustn't fail to mention that some of the designs clearly showed Native American influences. Feathers and beads dangled from one ankle-length jacket. On another jacket's hem were the distinctive lines of an Inuit dual-purpose amautik.

D'Arcy Moses' coats with their long fringes were imprinted with birds, plants, crests which remind me now of the Hudson's Bay Company old logo and finally black circles divided into the four colours of mankind (humankind?), black, white yellow and red.

All the designs were geared towards women so you'll forgive me if I felt left out. Surely, an industry that can come up with washable fur can also make fur boxer shorts for men in the cold territories. Come to think of it... there was one outrageous outfit that would have looked good on either sex. Had not the weird headgear come attached it would have looked like one of those suits downhill skiers wear to the Olympics. But I digress.

A majority of the designers were more conservative. Aiming for the Park Avenue ladies on their way to the Opera. That's New York's Park Avenue, not Montreal's lesser known but no less fashionable Avenue du Parc.

The audience seemed to enjoy the parade, applauding noisily now and then. During a lull half-way through the show when the lights were dim, a lady sitting a few rows from the catwalk got up from her seat and almost stumbled onto the stage, all the while unfolding a poster bearing a graphic photograph of a skinned animal and holding it up for the crowd to see. I have no idea who her designer was but she was wearing the always-chic black blazer with matching slacks, a white top for contrast and (gasp!) leather shoes.

Two huge well-dressed men dashed towards her. Her upheld poster was swatted from her hands and she was dragged off the stage and behind the huge black curtain kicking, twisting and squirming like some trapped wild animal. She was never to be seen or heard from again. She is now, no doubt, a living legend in animal rights circles.

All this happened in the space of a few seconds so more than a handful of people were confused, thinking, Is this part of the show? Is this the way fashion aficionados react when they don't like the way someone is dressed?

But she was only a mole from the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals or one of the groups responsible for the anti-fur demonstration winding down just ouside the hotel's doors. Some of the protestors were so apathetic and misinformed about Natives and their hunting lifestyles that one woman when asked about them shot back, "I don't give a shit about their culture," while another replied angrily, "They're all on welfare!"

Two of her fellow protestors seemed embarassed and distanced themselves from her remark. Someone told me I winced when I heard one of the comments. Did it hurt that much? I don't recall. But I do remember someone once saying, "I've been called worse by better people."

After the distressing episode on the catwalk, the fashion police were acting more vigilant and I couldn't help but notice that they were looking at me and my companions more often while whispering into their mikes. All because we weren't dressed for the occasion.

All in all it made for an interesting and exciting evening. I fled when the house lights came on and went happily back to my fashion-deprived suburban existence.

—*Text and photos by Neil Diamond*

Meanwhile, outside at the anti-fur protest...

Q • What would you say to the native trapper?

BELINDA BOUHCHI
They kill for luxury. *(Asked about her leather boots...)* I saw them and they were too nice!

CLIFF LANA: They're being exploited by the fur industry. And even if they are hunting for personal reasons, Native trapping only makes up 5 per cent of all trapping.

LISA LIBARIAN
Get a real job. I don't give a shit about their culture.

ANDRIA LEMAY
Native people don't hunt. They are all on welfare.

LAURA COPELAND
Why, I've actually never had this question asked before... I'd tell them it's cruel and unnecessary. There's no point in wearing fur. It's just vanity. No matter how it's trapped.

VANNESSA FLANNERY
I don't really know if they exploit animals or not. I'd ask if they respect the animals, and then I'd make my judgement.

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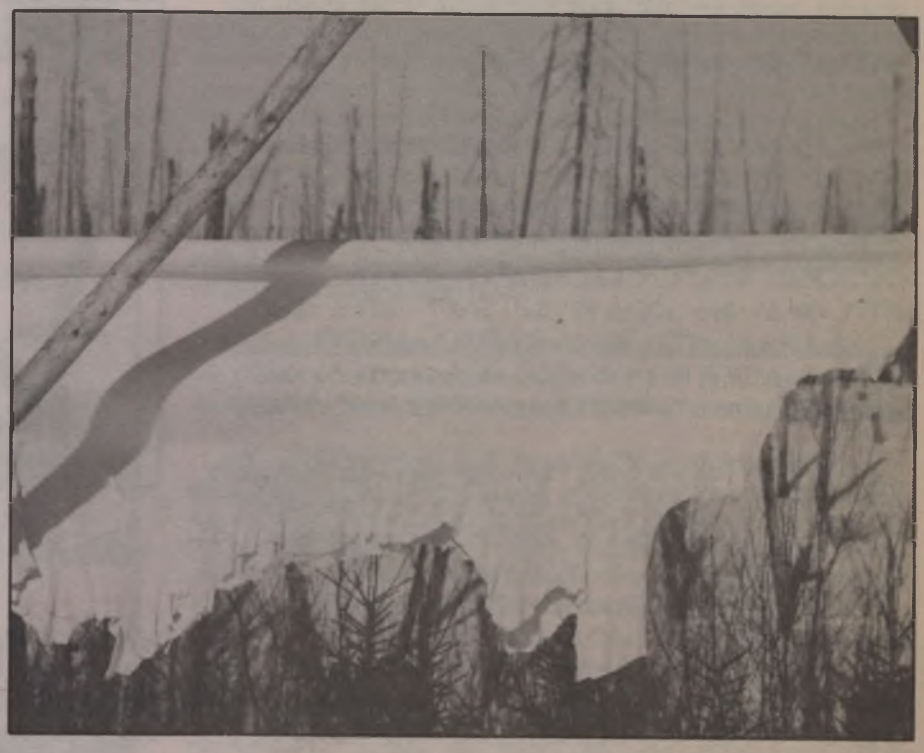
My Father Talking about Hunting

Told by Job Bearskin

"...if I wanted to talk thoroughly about how beaver are done when killed, I would take a long time. That is how one particular thing that is hunted seems. There are many teachings about how hunting is done..."



Take real care of what I am saying. Hopefully, this is how those children who hunt now will know, if hunting was not properly taught to them. I know my father taught me properly. That was how I knew how hunting is done. People talked a lot about my father and my uncle saying they were very good food providers. My father and my uncle taught how hunting is done, through their experiences. They were able to hit their mark when they had only one bullet. That was how they were talked about, when I heard them being talked about. That is how hunting is.

My father taught properly about how to deal with caribou. Today, caribou are not hunted the way they used to be because caribou are numerous. They directed caribou to each other. The hunters directed the caribou to whoever was thought to be a good food provider and good marksman. The hunters told him to shoot the caribou. That was what my father used to tell us and he talked about it thoroughly.

My father told me completely how to place and set a trap for beaver in the winter. He said, "When trapping for beaver, the trap is set directly straight where the tunnel reaches the land." Wooden stakes are used to block the way so it cannot go around the trap. When I trapped for beaver in the winter, I inserted beaver traps at the tunnel many times. That was how I caught beaver many times. Also at the beaver lodge on the waterline, that was where I for sure put the trap—straight across the waterline. And that was how I caught beaver many times. Once the water froze, the beaver could not surface and drowned instantly. It cannot surface so it does not fight it long because the wooden stakes are in the way.

In the winter and also in the summer, my father took a long time telling us about the beaver when we wanted to kill them. So if I wanted to talk thoroughly about how beaver are done when killed, I would take a long time. That is how one particular thing that is hunted seems. There are many teachings about how hunting is done.

My father also told me what to do with the bear in the summer when we saw it. And that was exactly what I did. Of course I killed bear when I hunted for it. Sometimes, there are crafty ways for people not being able to make kills. Even if one sees game all the time, one cannot kill something if it is not given to him. That was what my father used to tell us. When it is not given to him to kill, he is unable to kill it. But another man who seems to know how to hunt and who always make kills, he is the one who is chosen to kill it. He was the one who helped the people. What he taught me is what I know.

There are times when one kills a bear and gives the bear to another. He is given the responsibility of properly skinning, butchering and distributing the food. When my father killed a number of caribou, there were times when he did not oversee the distribution. My father said, "If I killed over 10 and if I didn't teach myself of it, I would only need one person to oversee all of them. As I gave them to him to take charge over." That 's what he told us.

Syllabics version on page 14

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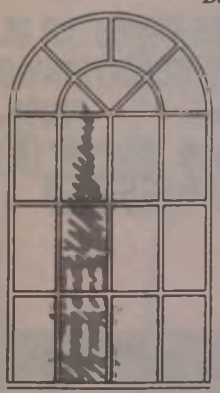

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HUNTING

Goose Hunt 1995

by William Nicholls with additional reporting by Paul Rickard

The results are in. It wasn't a good hunt for many. An early spring ruined many peoples hunt this year and in some places the geese are still arriving. People in the south are reporting 1,000's of geese feeding in the fields. Other people are saying the flying timetable for geese is changing. Still others notice seeing geese in smaller numbers than in the past.

Whapmagoostui Isaac Rupert bagged the first goose. This was one of the few communities where most people were satisfied with the hunt. The Chief, however, didn't do as well as most of the other voters according to himself.

Chisasibi Lawrence Scipio got the first one. Overall most people felt the hunt was pretty slow. Apparently the hunt was good for some people, worse for others and ended up evening out overall.

Wemindji 1st goose shot down by Oliver Visitor. Numbers of geese taken is down from last year as the snow and ice disappeared too early. Families that used to come back by snowmobile couldn't this year. This was good news for helicopter pilots who had to work seven days straight carrying stranded families back to the community. Most people took less than half the expected numbers of geese.

Waskaganish Not available at press time.

Eastmain Patrick Mayappo had the honour of the first goose on April 21. Hunting was about the same as last year in this community.

Nemaska Abel Jolly is thought to have killed the first goose. The hunt was worse than last year's and the geese weren't flying. People blamed the weather and said it was too cold. The only two good days had a strong south wind and the geese flew on by most hunters in this community.

Mistissini Don MacLeod once again at his favourite spot... out his back window. It was slow this year in Mistissini. Hunters say the big flocks that usually come through haven't arrived yet. Hunting so far wasn't as good as last year. Late breakup is blamed as one of the reasons. People are back but some are still hopeful and sit in blinds after work.

Ouje-Bougoumou Walter Capissisit is credited with the kill. People said this year's hunting was about the same except flying and landing patterns were off. Geese were landing in other places than normal. Snow was slow in melting, according to hunters, and this affected the hunt. The O.J's will be having a Goose Festival June 16-17 with children's activities on the 16th and a walking out on Saturday, June 17. Everyone is welcome to attend the festivities.

Waswanipi Clarence Saganash cooked his goose the earliest. People aren't really complaining but most said it wasn't as good as last year. Some people did okay though and some people are still hunting as the geese are still flying as of press time.

Attawapiskat Billy Wesley is rumoured to have killed the first of the season. "The geese went right through and didn't hang around. But people got their share, it was an early spring and not too much ice," said Chief Ignace Gull.

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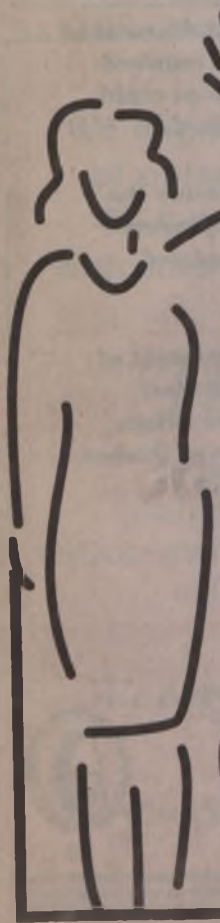
Dad

By M. Sealhunter

Today I've been counting the many blessings
In the family my dad raised
All the love we shared through the years
Has come back to me in many ways
And today, my mind flashed back to my childhood days
I recalled my first day of school
And how much it hurt my dad
To see me start off in patched-up old clothes
And I remembered Sunday School
And how I got mad when he made me go
But now I can see why it was so important to him
Cause we prayed together and we stayed together
My dad was a man who knew his own mind
He was almost totally blind, the last years of his life
But still, he did the work he had chosen to do
And I remembered when he called us all together
And he would say, "Family, it's loving time,"
"Love one another, Love will give you eternal life."
His world was built around mom and the nine kids they raised
And I can still see the smile that always came on mama's face
Each time dad would say the table grace
I heard other people talk about my dad
And talked about the things he had done when he was young
Also they talked about the way he helped people overcome their losses when their loved ones died
My dad was a good man and his family came first and he did his best for us
And I know sometimes he worked 'til it hurt
I remembered Dad leaving the house before daybreak to go hunting and walking miles just so we can have something to eat
I guess everyone remembers the good times and the bad
Good times were happy, bad times were sad
When I think of my dad, it makes me proud
Cause, you see, he gave so much of himself to make life easier for me
Not everyone is lucky as I am to have had a father who wanted to have the best for me out of life
Now when I hear a church bell chime
It's almost like my father saying from above,
"Family, it's loving time."
So why don't you go to your dad right now
And tell him you love him, while he's still alive because you'll never know how much you'll miss him until you lose him for good
So tell him you love him
It will mean more to him than any gift that money could ever buy
Cause you can never repay him for all the things he's done for you
And the best way I know to let him know is to say, "Daddy, I love you."

In loving memory of my father who passed away on Jan. 11, 1995. Even though he won't be with us on Father's Day, he will always be in our hearts, our minds and especially in our memories. Happy Father's Day to our uncles, Joseph, Isaac and Tommy Sealhunter from M. Sealhunter, S. Snowboy and our seven brothers.



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From the GCCQ news desk:

Memorandum of Understanding

WHEREAS Quebec and the Crees wish to move forward with negotiations with respect to matters related to the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement and other issues;

WHEREAS the attached document entitled "Mandate for Negotiations" sets forth an overall negotiation process acceptable to the Cree people and was previously submitted to Quebec;

WHEREAS Quebec wishes to show that there will be tangible and concrete results to the Cree communities;

WHEREAS this Memorandum is intended to be a first step in order to establish a framework for effective discussions and cooperation between Quebec and the Crees and has been negotiated and is concluded without prejudice to the positions of any of the parties regarding their respective rights and obligations under the JBNQA and elsewhere.

IT IS AGREED:

THAT negotiations now commence with respect to the following priority issues;

1. The financial participation of Quebec in community public works programs with a view to improving the water distribution and sewage treatment infrastructures within the Cree communities;

2. The implementation of resources designed to respond to the needs of the elderly and the disabled in the areas of lodging and extended care;

3. The application of provincial programs in the area of economic development with a view to responding to particular community economic development initiatives;

4. Issues that impact upon the Crees and in particular forestry and mining;

5. Issues with respect to regional authorities.

THAT these negotiations be commenced immediately based on the good faith of both parties and with the understanding that both parties wish to have concrete and tangible results as quickly as possible in order to reflect priority needs in the Cree communities and in order to reflect also a mutual commitment to improved relations;

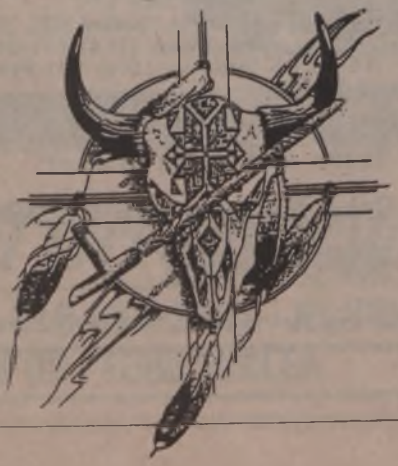
THAT the respective negotiators of Quebec and the Crees having signed this Memorandum, they undertake to proceed with its implementation and further undertake to submit a written report to the responsible of the Quebec government for Native Affairs and to the Grand Chief of the Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec) and the Chiefs of the Cree First Nations at the end of the first month and every three months thereafter in order to describe the progress which has been made on specific matters;

THAT to the extent that the involvement of other parties in specific issues be required, tripartite negotiations or discussions could continue where appropriate within this process;

THAT Quebec undertakes to review the "Mandate for Negotiations" as a proposed basis for the negotiations contemplated therein.

SIGNED on behalf of the Government of Quebec by David Cliche, parliamentary assistant to the Premier for Native Affairs

SIGNED on behalf of the Crees of Quebec by Chief Billy Diamond, negotiator



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Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec)
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GUN LAW WILL FAIL IN COURT: AFN

BY ALEX ROSLIN

Give a single bullet to an unlicensed person and you will face a minimum sentence of one year behind bars and so will the person who got the bullet. That is the future facing First Nations hunters if the gun-control legislation proposed by Justice Minister Allan Rock becomes Canadian law as expected by summer's end.

Under the law, all 6-7 million firearms in Canada made after 1946 will have to be registered. The new gun-registry system will cost Ottawa up to $1 billion at a time of fiscal restraint. And despite the staggering cost, experts still don't agree about whether the gun law will have a real impact on crime.

On the other hand, the law will create a whole new class of criminals. Forget once to register a weapon and you're looking at a fine of up to $2,000 and six months in the slammer. If you deliberately refuse to register a weapon, you face a 10-year prison term and a hefty fine.

The bill was greeted by outrage across the country, including from First Nations, three Western premiers and members of every party in Ottawa. Rock was forced to propose changes, but these ended up being minor. The original bill gave police unprecedented power to enter gun owners' homes to inspect firearms without any notice. Rock said this should be changed.

But Rock made no changes in response to National Chief Ovide Mercredi's criticisms of the gun bill before the House of Commons justice committee on May 15. Chief Mercredi said parts of the bill violate the Aboriginal and treaty right to hunt, which is protected by section 35 of the Constitution of Canada. The bill is also unconstitutional because First Nations weren't adequately consulted as required by the courts, he said.

"In First Nations cultures, guns are an essential tool for economic survival, not an item of sport. Mr. Chairman, our people don't use handguns to hunt moose. Our people don't use assault rifles to hunt goose. Our people use rifles and shotguns to put food on the table. This has been the case long before Confederation."

The first time a Native person is charged under the new rules, Chief Mercredi promised, the law will be taken to the Supreme Court of Canada and thrown out.

The Grand Council of the Crees also thinks little of the bill. "It's unacceptable," said the GCCQ's Bill Namagoose. "Most of these guys grew up handling guns."

The Grand Council has made a counter-proposal to Ottawa: Give Band Councils the authority to automatically issue gun licenses and permits. Also, nix the mandatory training courses and registration of firearms. Federal officials rejected these suggestions, saying they'll look at First Nations concerns once the bill becomes law and the bureaucrats take over to compose the regulations.

Retorted Namagoose, "That won't do either. Regulations can be changed by any bureaucrat."

The gun bill is also running into flack on the other side of the bay. "(For Crees) the gun is not a weapon, but a tool for survival," said Roseanne Archibald, Chair of the Mushkegowuk Council. "We use it as a tool for our treaty and Aboriginal right to hunt. The gun control bill is an infringement on that right."

Stan Louttit, Deputy Grand Chief of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation, agreed, saying the legislation isn't "culturally appropriate" and "will put hardships and have a negative affect on the people who use guns for survival."

Chief Louttit said NAN has the capacity to develop its own laws governing gun safety. "According to the federal government's Red Book, it's supporting Native self-government, and this new gun bill contradicts that statement."

Additional reporting by Paul M. Rickard

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Nation

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Vol. 2 No. 13

Vol. 2 No. 14

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Maamuitaau

June 3 and 4

Maamuitaau profiles Cree entertainer and singer Lawrence Martin. At a performance in Eastmain, Quebec we interviewed Lawrence about his achievement in winning the Juno award and how his career started. Today's show features many native songs including the vignette "Wachiya."

June 10 and 11

Mamoweedow Minshtukch is an annual Cree event that brings people together at the old site of Fort George. **Maamuitaau** highlights the activities and entertainment that took place during the week-long event in July. Also a vignette featuring Sarah Herodier preparing and cooking goose and bannock on an open fire.

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During a recent teleconference with Indian Affairs Minister Ron Irwin The Nation got to ask a few questions. The minister talked about issues near and dear to Native hearts but couldn't be nailed down to any concrete promises by interviewers. No guarantees on housing, negotiations or assistance to northern communities were given but the minister promised to look at the intent of treaties and agreements rather than just the wording.

One feeling I had was it seemed a lot of money is spent on government employees rather than the Natives. In B.C. alone there are five negotiating tables with 50 negotiators with a budget of $125 million. And this just to talk when Natives face a housing crisis and social and economic problems.

NO PROMISES

NEIL DIAMOND

by William Nicholls

Minister Irwin: Is there some sort of order here is *The Nation* going to start first?

***The Nation*: Yeah sure.**

Go ahead, shoot... I mean that only figuratively! (polite laughter)

There has been some concern among the James Bay Crees over the fact that housing has been cut to 43 houses this year from 70 last year. Needs continue to grow—therefore is the Minister going to increase funding for housing?

Well, I can't give you a specific number going to anyone but I'm consumed with this problem. You know we've been over this before. We have to get the housing up to a level table. At the same time you know the problem (Finance Minister Paul) Martin had with the budget, and Dave Dingwall (minister responsible for social housing) and I have been putting as much pressure as we can without being nuisances here in Ottawa to bringing the problem ahead and it's current.

Has the Operations and Maintenance Funding for the Cree communities seen any resolution?

I've had a couple of meetings with Matthew Coon Come and the negotiators. My deputy minister and assistant deputy minister are hands on this file to see if we can get some resolution on this. I find that if you sort of let these things wander off time goes by and nothing gets accomplished. So at the last meeting we decided to put a concentrated effort on this and get the O&M budget done.

Has a negotiator been finally chosen to deal with implementation of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement? It's been my understanding that this search has taken over a year.

This bothers me too. You'd think we could get a negotiator quicker. We've had some good one-on-one discussions on a negotiator—direct negotiations with the Grand Chief—and I want to get this done. I want a negotiator named as soon as possible, as he does. You can't negotiate if you don't have a negotiator.

Do you see one being found soon?

I do.

Is there a possibility of financial assistance to the remote northern communities who only got in part of their supplies due to the short winter road season?

As I understand the funding on this—and I'm not an expert—this is taken into consideration on the winter roads. Soon of the Chiefs who have come up to me and for one reason or another, climate or whatever, are hung up on the transportation costs, I don't do those negotiations myself, but I'm aware that they are having some problems on that, but at this stage I can't answer that—it's a very broad question. I can't answer with a specific a First Nation is getting X amount of dollars because they couldn't get their supplies in because of the weather.

But is assistance being looked at, at all, as a possibility?

Yeah, sure it is. I mean we can't operate in a vacuum but that's not a carte blanche to say that anybody who has trouble is going to get extra money. We try to deal with it on an individual basis.

Are you going to give me an idea of what soon means?

I can't. But I usually move fairly quickly.

What are your objectives for this year? What are you really going to be doing?

Well, at this point that's a tough question. I spent all weekend mulling it in my mind. I'd like to move on about 30 different fronts. They range from oil and gas, inherent right to self-government, spirit and intent on treaty, to Aboriginal forestry, to dismantling the Indian Act review. I think as we get these things going and as treaty bodies and tribal councils gain the experience to do it, if I can accomplish those 30 areas, then it will be quite a year.

Is your department looking at updating some of the treaties and agreements in conjunction with the Aboriginal groups or peoples involved?

The treaties aren't going to change as far as the wording. I'll give you an example. A number of the treaties talked about school and they get kind of chincy as you get closer to the last treaty. Nowadays First Nations are quite comfortable with their own universities. So rather then changing the wording of any treaty why don't we look at the spirit and intent in today's atmosphere. What does this mean? It no longer means one school per band; this means a university. I don't think you'll be seeing us changing the wording of a treaty but we'll be changing what we are doing.

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100-BIRTHS

Congratulations to Suzanne, Norman and the boys on the birth of their first girl Siikun Danielle Star Wapachee, born in Chibougamau on March 23, 1995. With lots of hugs and kisses Grandma and all aunts and uncles (Kitchens)

Congratulations to Wanda and Reggie on the birth of their son Preston Joab on March 8, 95. Fr. the Matches family.

Congratulations to Gloria Coon & William Shecapio on the birth of their beautiful baby boy, Shane Waapinudaaw, born on April 28, 1995 at 6:30 a.m. Wishing you all the happiness & joy. From Demerise C.

Rachel Josephine Nihilwasuu Webb 11:45 Am, May 10, 1995. May the Creator bless and keep you forever. Mom & Dad and your big sister Katy.

Congratulations on the birth of your second daughter Ernest and Catherine Webb. Best wishes from the Bobbish family in Chisasibi.

101-BIRTHDAYS

This birthday wish goes out to a special girl who will be turning 4. Caitlin Petawabano in Chisasibi on May 15th, Happy 4th birthday and many more to come. I love you and miss you a lot!!! Love always Stephanie M. XOXOX

We would like to wish a happy 3rd birthday to our daughter Krista Mayappo on May 28. We love you so much. With lots of hugs and kisses. From: Mom Phyllis and Daddy Alfred. (Eastmain, Quebec)

We wanna wish a happy birthday to our special friend Francine Weistche on May 30. May God bless you & care for you. With love & prayers. Laurie R. & Shayne L.

Belated birthdays goes out to my dad Clarence Rabbitskin on May 9. Also to my (beautiful) sister Sarah Matoush on April 26. I love you both. With love & prayers. Laurie R.

I wanna wish happy birthdays to my nephews Andrew Matoush on May 17. And Shawn Rabbitskin May 30. Also to my neice Margaret Swallow on May 28. Thinking of you guys on your birthdays. With love & prayers. Auntie Laurie R.

Happy 9th birthday to Kerrie-Ann Hughboy on June 8 and happy 10th birthday to Dale Howard Hughboy on June 14 and many more to come. From Mom & Dad, Eugene, Bertha and Benjamin. (Wemindji)

We would like to wish a happy belated birthday to our one and only brother on May 10/95. From your sisters Beverly and Kimberly.

I would like to wish "Happy Birthday" to Edith on May 19 and to Mary-Ann Swallow on May 30 and to my brother Jean-Guy Pelchat on May 28. Have fun guys. Don't party too much. From Nancy Pelchat. (Chisasibi)

Happy 2nd Birthday to my "Little Sweet Pea", Shayna. Adorable angel will celebrate her birthday on June 3rd. We miss you, babe. Tons of hugs & kisses, Auntie Tracie and Uncle Rich. XOXOX

Happy belated birthday to my cousin Jonathan Tanoush on May3rd/95. From: Your cousin Nicolle Tanoush. XOXOXO!!!

Belated birthday greetings to Toemmash Weapinacappo. Birthday: May 6. Savannah Weapinacappo. Birthday May 11. A very happy birthday to 2 beautiful wonderful daughters. We love you and may God guide you always. Fr.: Mom and Dad. XOXOX

On May 22 will be a special day for my son Lyndon, we will be celebrating his 2nd birthday. "You are so special" and Mommy loves you so much. From Sarah. XOXOXO

Happy birthday to a sweet little girl Georgina House. We hope you have a great time on May 27 and don't forget to invite us. From: Sarah, Lyndon and Lynette. XOXO

I wanna wish a happy 4th birthday to my special friend Georgina House on May 27th. I hope you have a great one this year. From your friend always: Pearl Bearskin.

We wanna wish happy belated birthday to Theresa on May 1st and her hubby Brian House on April 20th. From the Bearskin family, Cluster B2-2 in Chisasibi.

Happy Birthday to a sweet little boy-ish Lyndon Wadden on May 22nd and a special granddaughter, Georgina House on May 27. With love and kisses, Granny and Grandpa Bearskin.

Happy **Birthday to** my buddy Thomas Jonah Jr. (Tommy). Who'll be turning 1 on the 15th of June. From your big buddy Eric'sh.

We would like to wish a belated happy birthday to our son Jason B. Coonishish on May 17, 1995. We love you a lot. From: Mom and Dad.

Happy belated birthday to my dear friend & buddy Craig Masty. As they say better late than never. With extra love & huggs, Bo-Do Lee Masty (Corey). XOX

I would like to wish a belated happy birthday to a special nephew David Blacksmith on May 15, 1995. You are getting handsome as the years go by. Don't get too close to the girls, you're still too young. Love you always, Aunt in Montreal.

Wishing a Happy Birthday to my friend Benny Blacksmith in Waswanipi on May 21. Hope you have fun my friend! Fr.: One of your friends in Was.

I would like to say happy birthday to Joey Blacksmith on May 29. Hope your day will be as special as you are!!! Fr.: Love Always, Maxine (Waswanipi)

Happy Birthday to my drinking buddy Karl Simard on May 30. Too bad

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CLASSIFIEDS

Montreal Canadians didn't make it to the playoffs, but they're still #1 to us. Take my advice have a blast on May 30. From your buddy Barry Blackned. (Wask.)

Happy Birthday to the sexiest guy in the Nation Karl Simard (Ouje). We'll be admiring you when you celebrate on May 30. Fr.: Your sweetie pies Karly and Amanda Blackned. XOXO (Waskaganish).

We would like to wish a happy birthday to our precious, adorable son Eric Robert William (Eric'sh) who'll be turning 1 on the 9th of June. Hugs and Kisses. Love, Mom and Dad.

Happy Birthday to Timage, the Montrealer on May 24. Twenty-something. Cochraner, Leena on May 29. 30 something.

I would like to wish a Happy Birthday to a very special person in North Bay (Ont.), Arlene Mianscum. She will be celebrating her b-day on May 6/95. I wish I could be there with you buddy! P.S. Take care bud! Fr: I.G. (Chis.)

Birthday wish going out to our nephew Be-da-ba-boo Matoush on May 19, and also to his parents Tim on May 6, Annie on May 24. Wishing you guys all the best. Fr. Abel, Taria, Jeraldene & Josiah Coon

---

Happy Birthday to our mother Winnie and to our Grandma Lucy Iserhoff both on May 16th. Best wishes and we love you. From: Lynda and Lucy in North Bay, Ontario.

We would like to wish a happy birthday to our only brother Melvin on May 19th. We love you. From your sisters Janie, Patricia & Priscilla Wesley (in Wask., Que.)

We would like to wish a happy birthday to our friends Sheila Sealhunter on June 6, Lisa Pepabano on June 8, Margaret Rupert on June 9. Hope you have a great time. Friends always. From: Rita, Frances and Annie

---

We would like to wish a happy Birthday to our Friends Lily Sealhunter, Demerise Coon, Joyce Coon on May 21. Wishing you both have a wonderful birthday. Friends always: Rita and Frances Sealhunter

---

We want to wish a Happy Birthday to our brother Eddie Sealhunter on May 26. Hope you have a great birthday. Fr: your sisters Rita and Frances

---

We would like to wish a very happy 1st birthday to our special adorable loving daughter Brianna Moore on June 16, 95. We love you from mom Claudine and dad Brian. From Ojay

---

Happy belated birthday to friend Maxine B. Wap on May 9. Wishing the best of luck, don't party at all. Beer can kill you. Lots of love, Marlene B. Ojay

---

Happy 14th Birthday to my brother & uncle Kevin Lee who's celebrating his b-day on May 10th in N. Bay. Don't you wish mom & dad could be here with us? We love you, from; Kyla & Kyle xoxoxo

---

Happy 14th Birthday to our uncle Kevin Lee Loon (May 10). Love: Clifford & Jannah Loon

---

Happy Birthday to Leigh-Ann Pepabano on May 25. Happy Birthday and many many more to come. From mom, dad, sisters & brother in Chis.

Happy belated birthday to a special girl Karlene-Jenny House on May 21st. Happy 3rd Birthday, love always Jennifer in Chis.

Birthday wishes going out to Andrew Kawapit Jr. Happy 23rd Birthday we miss you and we wish we could spend time with you on your birthday, see you soon. Love always, Margaret and Ralph xoxox

---

Wishing a happy birthday to Linda Mayappo in Chicoutimi on May 16, 1995. Enjoy your day even though I cannot spend it with you but I always love you and I'm always thinking of you, love xxooxx Ernest P.S. Please stop smoking!

Birthday greetings to a very special friend Emily Gull Happyjack in Waswanipi on April 29. Wishing you all the best today and always. Friend in MTL. Take care oxox Chickie B.C.

We want to wish a happy b-day to these special people in our lives: sweet & adorable Yolanda Crystal, 6 yrs old, our caring and loving mom Philomene, 71 yrs old on May 27. Also to my wonderful sister Helen on May 20. Enjoy your days!! and don't forget we love you all. From: the Brien family at 323 Nesk St. Mistissini

---

I'd like to send b-day greetings to my sister and friend Helen G. on May 20. Wishing you all the best sis!! By the way how many candles are you blowing out this year? 30... 40 (ha ha). Don't want to embarass you! Just have a wonderful b-day and enjoy yourself. Fr: sis L.M.B.

I would like to wish a happy B-day to my little friend Yolanda Crystal on May 27 (Mist.) Fr: Amelia Sunshyne

---

Happy birthday to Googoom Bellamon on May 27. We love you soooo much! Fr: Amelia, Dylan & Eliz Brien (Mist.)

I wanna wish a happy b-day to a special friend Charlotte G. (Mist.) on May 30. Hey!! You mentioned to me the other day about a "biiig" number, what was it! Ha ha! Anyway hope you have the nicest b-day and "thanks" for showing that you care. Fr: your friend at: 323 Nesk St. Mistissini

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Happy belated birthday to Rodney Hester of Nemaska. Hope you enjoy your placement with Mark in Sudbury, Ont. Good luck in your running and I hope you make it to Naig 95. Your friend, Sara Beaudry xo

---

Happy Birthday to my sweet adorable sister Sharon Beverly Tyra, who will turn 1 on May 3. Also to my beautiful mom Clara who will turn 35 on May 20, love always, Charlene & Baby Geoffrey Lee-Roy.

Belated birthday greetings to Nellie P. March 21, Beullah Apr. 23, Hank H. April 30, Edith G. May 2, who are all employees of the Chisasibi Eeyou Emoo Why Abee. Keep up the good work! From Gordon

---

Happy First birthday to my sweet, adorable, loving, cute cousin "Mr. T" (Tyler Tyson Thomas Trapper) on May 16th. I wish I could see you blowing your first candle. With lots of hugs and kisses from: your cousin Celina

---

I want to wish a Happy Birthday to my mom Caroline on May 16th and also to my sister Sally on May 12th. Love you so much both of you from: Celina

---

Happy birthday to my cousin Tommy-Lee, he celebrates his birthday on the 24th of May. From: your cousin Celina

---

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my friend Charlene Rose and Sally Maggie both celebrating their birthdays on May 12. Many more to come. From your friend in Chisasibi, Connie.

I would like to wish a happy 1st birthday to my lovable, cute little nephew Mr. T (Tyler Tyson Thomas Trapper) and also to my aunt Caroline both celebrating their birthdays on May 16th. Hope you have a great goose-break. From Connie

---

I would like to wish a happy birthday to Tommy-Lee James and to Matthew on May 24th. Happy birthday and many more to come. From Connie

---

Ok Ok We admit we almost forgot! A belated birthday wish to our silly uncle Roland Klookie Matoush who turned 18 on April 12. Hope you had a good one. From your adorable neice Boots & nephew Bobobeans

---

A birthday wish going out to our lovely daughter Jeraldene Coon who will be turning 3 on May 17. Loving you always mom & dad. Hope you have a good one Boots! From your favourite bro Bobo Beans.

Happy 6th Birthday to Nathan Pepabano on May 13, 95. Hope you have a great b-day. Love & kisses from mom, dad, Corrina, Nathan, Matthew & Jean-Paul, Chisasibi

---

Happy 10th Birthday to Matthew Kitty on May 5, 95. Have a great birthday and many more from mom, Corrina, Nathan & Jean-Paul (Chis.) oxox

---

Happy Birthday to our special uncle Reggie Kitty on May 3rd, 95. From Matthew, Corrina, Nathan & Jean-Paul (Chis.) oxoxox

---

To the LOVE of my life (in Mtl.): In celebration of the day you were born (June 2nd), I salute you all the way from Waskaganish. You've given me so much - I thank God for you. "Tu me donne La Berge d'Amour." I anxiously await our reunion & the Event of the Century: #2! Love, Me, Colin-Boy & Nika-Girl.

Birthday wishes going out to bro Gordon and to his son Justice (May 23 and 31). Happy Birthday to u both. Gordon, please don't eat all the cake, save some for us! Sending all our love. From Rosie and family.

I would like to wish a birthday to my bro Jordan Iserhoff who will be 5 years old May 27 and also my aunt Nannette on May 21. WIsh you guys the best on your b-day. Love, prayers, Hayley, Waswanipi

---

Happy belated birthday going out to our loving, caring grandmother Barb Chum in Moose Factory, on April 25. And many more to come, we miss you a lot. Fr: Rylan & Eldon Gull-Chum in Waswanipi, Que.

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my son Eldon Gull-Chum on May 22. You are so sweet Boy, we love you & many more to come. Love always: mom & bro Rylan xoxoxox

---

We would like to wish Happy Birthday to a loving husband & a wonderful father Bobby Cooper on May 07. We love you very much. Have a great time! With lots of love, your wife Judy & children

---

Happy belated b-days to grandson Danny "Boy" Gilpin on March 1st/95 (turned 3 yrs old), to cousin Charlotte Kan.-Moar on March 15/95m and neice Jenny (Pooh) Ratt on April 3rd/95. "Hope your wishes came true." Fr. Daisy in Chisasibi

---

Birthday wishes going to Tommy Lee Ratt on May 24/95, to Matthew Ratt on 24 of May/95, and Charlene Gilpin on May 12/95, in Chisasibi. "Hope you have a nice goose break." Fr. Daisy in Chisasibi

---

Birthday wishes going out to Comfort Affair on May 18, 1995 in Wask. "BY THE WAY MY BIRTHDAY IS... Ha! Ha! Remember?" Also to Josephine Hester Sr. on May 18/95 in Wask. "Welcome to the world of 40's. Ha! Ha!" Fr. your friend Daisy in Chisasibi

---

Happy B-day to (cousin) (aunt) Charlene Gilpin on May 12/95, (great) & (grandpa) Matthew Ratt on May 24/95, (cousin) (nephew) Tommy Lee Ratt on May 24/95, and (mother) (grandmother) Daisy Ratt on May 18, 1995. "Our love, hugs, kisses and prayers will be with you wherever your goose break will be, enjoy it." Fr. Stella, Williamish, Sara Crystal, Stephane and Curtis Ratt in Chisasibi.

We would like to wish a happy 2nd birthday to our special daughter Georgina who will be celebrating her birthday on May 2nd. We love you oxoxo with all our love, mom & dad Chis.

A happy belated birthday to George M. Pachano who was celebrating his birthday on April 14th. Happy Birthday to you. We love you. Love always, Georgina Marilyn oxoxox (Chis.)

Birthday wishes goes out to Georgina Pachanos on May 2/95. Love Vernon xoxox.

Happy 1st Birthday to Shannon Fireman on May 14/95 and many more to come. Fr. Karen and Vernon Neacappo

---

We wanna wish a happy Birthday to our granddaughter Caitline Petawabano who will be turning 4 this month... We love you Caitlin and come and visit us. With all our love and prayers Grandpa Willie & Grandma Annie xox

---

I would like to wish a happy B-day to my sweet neice Caitlin Petawabano who will be 4 this month on the 15th... Caitlin, I miss you and I love you very much "Kabajeejit." Love always your uncle Josh xox

---

Happy 2nd Birthday to my daughter and inspiration Liz May, which she celebrated on the 1st of May. Love mom

---

I would like to wish a Happy Birthday to my big huggable favourite nephew Jean Guy (Boooooo House) Pelchat who will be turning six on May 28, with lots of love, hugs & kisses love always Auntie Cheryl in Chisasibi

---

Happy belated birthday to our one and only brother Darryl C. Hester on May the 10th/95. From your sisters Beverly & Kimberly

---

Happy 1st Birthday to Thomas Asquabaneskum on June 15 and many more to come. We love you very much from James and Alice Mistacheesick and family

---

Happy 1st Birthday to Eric Martinhunter on June 9, 1995 and many more to come. We love you very much. From grandparents James and Alice, uncles Thomas, Paul and Jeremiah.

A birthday wish goes out to a chubby little boy Thomas Jolly Jr. on May 21. Fr: Nem. with lots of love & kisses mom, dad, Catherine, Albert & Melanie and Appolo

---

A belated birthday wish goes out to our sweet mother Harriet on May 12, fr: Nemaska. Thanks for everything mom with lots of love: your children, grandchildren and your hubby! Hey mom getting old but not growing!

Happy Birthday to my dear sister Eva Otter on May 16. From your sister Helen M.

Wishing a happy birthday to all these people from Waswanipi: Tommy Grant (May 1st), Clifford Blacksmith (May 3), Sinclair Neeposh (May 8), Stanley Cooper (May 10), Marcel Ratte (May 10), Gaston Cooper (May 11 in Montreal), Julie-Anne Cooper (May 12 in Hull), Steven Blacksmith (May 12 in Ottawa), Emily Gilpin (May 13 in Val d'Or), especially my godchild Marlena Otter (May 13), Emily J. Gull (May 16), William Blacksmith (May 16), Annie Blacksmith (May 19), Maggie Matoush (May 19), Benny Blacksmith (May 21), Andre Blacksmith (May 27), Flora Otter (May 27), Michel Awashish (May 27), Johnny Albert (May 27), Leslie Gull (May 28), Joey Blacksmith (May 29), Sandra G. Happyjack (May 31). Fr: Claude Blacksmith in Waswanipi

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We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to Lizzie Miascum on May 18 and to grandma Louise Coon-Come on May 25. We love you both so much xoxoxo From Michael Demerise, Jennifer

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To my sister Twyla happy 6th birthday. I love you, you love me, we're a happy family. Love always, bro Terrell J.

This very special Birthday wish is going out to our precious little Dwayne K. N. MacLeod who turned one (1) on May 10th. May God bless you and many more to come. Love always, Larry, Maria, Nathan & Lance MacLeod. Love ya!!!

A Birthday wish going out to our tiny bro. Dwayne K. N. MacLeod, may God watch over you on your very special day,

CLASSIFIEDS

we love you so much. Fr: Nathan & Lance. We couldn't ask for a sweeter brother

---

Happy Birthday to you! You belong in the zoo, you act like a monkey and you look like one too! This is my warmest birthday wish to you Louise C. whose b-day was on May 06th. Fr: 163 Mist. Blvd. Love ya!

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my husband Mathew L. on May 24. May this day be a special one for you and lots more to come, thanks for being a better dad. Love always Mary L. & children (Mist.)

Happy 19th Birthday to our son Andrew Coon on May 10th, 1995. We wish you joy & happiness. And may you have many more birthdays to celebrate. We love you very much. From mom & dad (Thomas & Josephine Coon). God bless you. xoxo

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Happy happy birthday to our one & only daughter Demerise which will be on May 21st, 1995. Wishing you all the happiness & many more years to come. We love you always from mom & dad, Thomas & Josephine Coon, Mistissini xoxo

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Happy 24th Birthday Joweesh. "Live your life and forget your age." (A quote to inspire you.) When we get together we'll celebrate with fireworks!!! Loving you and D.V. oh so very much, your Poopoosh. xx 1/2

We would like to wish a Happy Belated 1st Birthday to our sweet little daughter April Matthew. Birthday was on April 22/95. We love you and you'll always be special to us from mom and dad xoxoxo

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I would like to wish a Belated Happy 1st Birthday to my sweet adorable little neice April Matthew. Birthday April 22/95. Hugs & kisses. From Aunt Dinah

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We want to wish a Happy belated 1st birthday to our sweet, lovable little granddaughter "April" birthday April 22. Love always Grandma and Grandpa Cookish xoxoxo

---

Happy Birthday to our special daughters Germaine-Marie (5) May 9 & Krista (8) May 14, we love you lots, from mom & dad, sister Sheena & Juli-Ann

---

Birthday wishes goes out to Victor Brien on May 1, Michael Shecapio May 1, Denise White on May 7, Lizzie M. on May 18. Happy birthday to all of you. (Mistissini)

Isaac Steven of Chisasibi. Happy Birthday! on May 20th. Hey! Mushroomhead! Know what today is. Today's our birthday, who could have asked for a nicer birthday present when you were born 2 years ago. You will always be my one and only trolliesh. Luv u,

OUR PICK

We wanna wish a happy belated birthday to Gracie on May 19th. Hope you have a fishy day, remember you're not 16 anymore so enjoy your 3? Birthday from all your fishy friends in Chisasibi.

Elizabeth.

Happy Birthday to my grandmother Philomene Mianscum on May 27. Couldn't forget to remember you when your special day is here. Once again, happy birthday and a wonderful year ahead. Love always, Lucy xoxoxo (Mist.)

We want to wish a happy birthday to our daughter Yolanda Longchap who will be turning 6 on May 27. We love you very much with lots of hugs & kisses. Mom, dad & Curly Cheryl. xoxoxo (Mist.)

Happy Birthday to Cynthia Longchap on May 30 and to Tanya Longchap on June 3. Hope you have fun on your b-days. We love you both so much from mom, dad, Veronica, Priscilla and John Ryan (Mist.) xoxoxo

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We would like to wish a Belated Birthday to our Boss & friend Diane Ryder on May 9th. From Northern College faculty & support staff in Moosonee. "Surprise."

Happy belated birthday to our uncle Darryl C. Hester on May 10. From Mervina and Marvin Shorty Eastmain (Quebec)

Happy Birthday to Dorothy MacLeod Nicholls from your sons, dad & Eric & Elizabeth. Also, happy birthday to Christina MacLeod, Dorothy Nicholls MacLeod and Bill Campy all on May 28 from Christina, Kelly-Ann and Louise

102-WEDDINGS

We would like to congratulate Annette & Desmond who are getting married on June 9/95, in Moose Factory. Best wishes to you both in the future, from; Kyla & Kyle (N. Bay)

103-ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Anniversary to my Granny Marie & Mooshoom Bert Linklater in Moosonee. I love you & miss you both. Love your grandson, Kyle Loon xoxoxo

104-GRADUATIONS

Congratulations to Minnie Wapachee who will be successfully completing high school on June 3/95. Good luck and we wish you the best in your future endeavours. With lots of love, G. Wapachee & family.

Hooray! for my mom Minnie Wapachee whose graduating from high school on June 3/95. I'm so proud to have a mother who knows what her priorities are! Love you so much. Fr: Malachi (Hug a buns).

Congratulations to my uncle Thomas Mistacheesick who will be graduating from Maquatau Eeyou School on June 17/95. From your nephew Eric'sh.

Congratulations to our uncle Emmett who will be graduating in Montreal on May 26, 1995. We hope you have a great time and don't party too much, like you did on your brothers weddings!!! Fr: Your nephews Tyler and Chiiwetin and of course your neice Wapikun Coonishish. (Mistissini)

We would like to wish the best for Abel John Trapper on his graduation which will be in June 1995. We love you from Linda, Gary, Brandon, Mason and Josiah Cooper. North Bay, Ontario.

We would like to congratulate our brother Abel John Trapper who will be graduating in June 1995. We wish you all the best and good luck in your near future. P.S. Don't party too much. From sisters Linda and Lucy.

I would like to congratulate my brother Raymond Matt for graduating from the continuing education program and good luck on the career you've chosen for your future of tomorrow. From your proud sis Harriet Matt

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Congratulations to Nikki Voyageur and Angelina Ratt who graduated from kindergarten on April 24/95. I am proud of you both, good luck in grade one, in JBES. Fr. your aunt Daisy in Chisasibi

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Congratulations to my dad (Claude Blacksmith) who graduated from Sec. 5 Aduit Ed. on April 22/95 in Waswanipi. I hope to do same thing in the future. Fr: your loving son always Jesse Cooper

---

We would like to congratulate our grandson Stephane Richie Cookish on his graduation April 24/95. Best of luck in Grade !. Love Grandma and Grandpa Cookish

300-PERSONALS

I would like to say I LOVE YOU to my girlfriend Jamie Mianscum. I would like to kiss you every 1/2 second from the bottom of my heart. I always look at you in class. I hope we graduate together. Love always, Johnny Ottereyes (Wasw.)

I would like to say Hi! to my friends Cynthia Blackned and Kristine Diamond in Nemaska. Hope to see you guys soon! Take care, my friends!!! Fr.: Friend Always Maxine G. (Waswanapi). Miss you guys alot. XOX

We would like to say happy belated Mother's Day to our loving mother Lillian Blackned. We love you very much and you're the best!!! Love always, Tony, Maxine, Deidre and Curtis.

Hi Jenny Poo-Poosh! I just want you to know that you are the joy of my life, how I love you with beauty so deep, that I can't wait till we're together again. I will always love you with all my heart. Missing you, Joweesh

---

Louisa Kawapit (Whapmagoostui) you're out there, please write to: 11 Maple Street, Waswanipi, Que. J0Y-3C0. I would like to hear from you soon. Fr: your friend in Waswanipi C. Gull

---

To my wife Linda Mayappo in Chicoutimi, Quebec who is attending university. I want you to study hard and follow your dream and you will get your reward at the end. Love always xoxoxo Ernest P.S. I love you very much!

I would like to wish all the goose hunters & all the people who are in the bush a Happy Goose Break and Good luck to all the hunters to those who are fortunate to go for goose break. Which is not known to city people here in Montreal. From: Chickie Bosum Cooper

---

Hello "to our friends" in Chapais Larry & Helen Salt. You're in our thoughts! Take care from: friends always Jimmy & Chicky Cooper in MTL. A hello to googooba and Grandpa Daniel Bosum, I miss you both very much oxox love Larissa Cooper MTL

Happy Mother's Day to: Lizzie Diamond (Wask.) and Flora Moore (Moosonee). Thank-you for being there for us: with love, Lorna, Darren and grandchildren Ashlyn & Raymond (Wask.)

A Special Happy Mother's Day to our "Mom," Bella. Thank you for putting up with us so much. A lot of extra love's and hug's and kisses'are sent your way on this Mother's Day from your "girls," Patricia, Andrea and Jennifer

---

Happy Mother's Day to our Googkum (Mianscum) and aunts this Mother's Day. Also a Happy Mother's Day to our Nanny (MacLeod) and all of our aunties. Love Jen and girls

---

We wanna wish a Happy Mother's Day to our grannies Pauline Etapp and Marjorie Blackned. Thinking of you both. From your adorable granddaughters Karly & Amanda Blackned xox (Waskaganish)

500-MISC.

We would like to wish a Happy Mother's Day to our loving and caring

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mother Monica T. We love you very much & thank you for everything you have done for us! All our love Nicole. Johnny & Diane in Nemaska. XOXOXO

Happy belated anniversary to Raymond & Judy Capassissit on April 11th/95. Congratulations. We love you. Love always. Monica & David & Tanoush family in Nemaska. XOXOXOX!

I would like to say Happy Mother's Day to my loving and caring mom Margaret Rabbitskin. I love you so much. With love & prayers your daughter Laurie Rabbitskin. XOXOX

Happy Mother's Day to our Mom & grandmother Evelyn in G.W.R. We love you & we miss you. From Sandra, Howard, Georgia, Julian, Corey, Lee, Karlene, George & baby Julie-Ann.

Happy Mother's Day to Helen Hester (Wask). We miss you! With love, Howard, Sandra, Corey & Karlene.

Happy Mother's Day to Elizabeth Snowboy. From Julian, Georgia, Ajouksh & baby Julie-Ann.

Happy Mother's Day to a very special Grandma Irene Matches. Granny you mean the world to us and we will always love you, as you get older we will be the ones who's gonna take care of you and Cha-you. As you both always say. From love always your grandchildren Dorianna, Jeremyish, Sammy-boy & Nad. xoxoxoxo in Chisasibi

We would like to wish a happy Mother's day to our #1 mom, Irene Matches. Thanks! mom for everything that you've taught us and for bringing us into this world. We love you Oh! so much. From love always: Samson, Edith, Christopher & Rebecca in Chisasibi xoxoxox.

We would like to wish our father a happy father's day. We love you very very much. Keep up the good work. And may this day be special for you because you deserve. With love always; Brandon, Whitney and Edgar xxoo...

We would like to wish a very happy Mother's Day to our Loving mother Flora, our beloved grandma Janie Mark & Juliette Martin. Love: Nathan and Nelson Martin. Love you all so much.

TRIPS

WE'VE GOT TRANSPORTATION (BUS OR PLACE). WE'VE GOT TICKETS (HOCKEY, BASEBALL, SHOW). WE'VE GOT HOTELS (ANY TOWN). ORGANIZE YOUR MINI-GROUP 10 OR MORE, AND CALL NOW: 819-825-8460. "FROM YOUR PLACE TO ANY PLACE."

Message to our readers & distributors

We are running short of some back issues of The Nation *- vol. 1, nos. 4 & 23. Send them collect or let us know. (Hey! Sonny! send us yours already. On the bus... Collect.) Thank You.*

advertisement

Agreement between Quebec and the Crees Signed

In the wake of the discussions under way since September 1994, David Cliche, Parliamentary Assistant to the Prime Minister for Native Affairs, and Chief Billy Diamond, negotiator for the Cree Nation, signed an agreement confirming the reopening of a dialogue between the Québec government and the Cree Nation. The agreement was signed in the presence of the Prime Minister, Mr. Jacques Parizeau, Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come and the Chiefs of the Cree communities.

The agreement is a first step in establishing the necessary framework for discussions and effective cooperation between Québec and the Crees. The Cree Nation and the Québec government have demonstrated their good faith and their determination to achieve tangible results as rapidly as possible by undertaking to begin negotiations immediately on the following priority issues:

. the financial participation of Québec in infrastructure programs in the Cree communities;

. the implementation of resources designed to respond to the needs of the elderly and the disabled in the areas of housing and extended care, taking into account the special situation of the North;

. the application of provincial economic development programs;

. development questions, particularly in the areas of mining and forestry and their economic and social benefits to the Crees;

. questions concerning the functioning of regional authorities and regional development.

In signing the agreement, which will allow resumption of the dialogue with the Crees, Mr. Cliche said he was pleased with the great openness of spirit and sincere desire to move these negotiations forward, shown by the Crees and their negotiator. In the context of our relations, the Gouvernement du Québec firmly intends to respect its commitments to the Cree Nation and assume its responsibilities, Mr. Cliche added.

Mr. Diamond declared that the negotiations provide a practical means for Québec and the Crees to deal with outstanding issues and address new ones as they arise during the discussions.

The parties also committed themselves to implementing the agreement rapidly and to tabling a report at the end of the first month of discussions and every three months thereafter on the progress achieved.

Gouvernement du Québec
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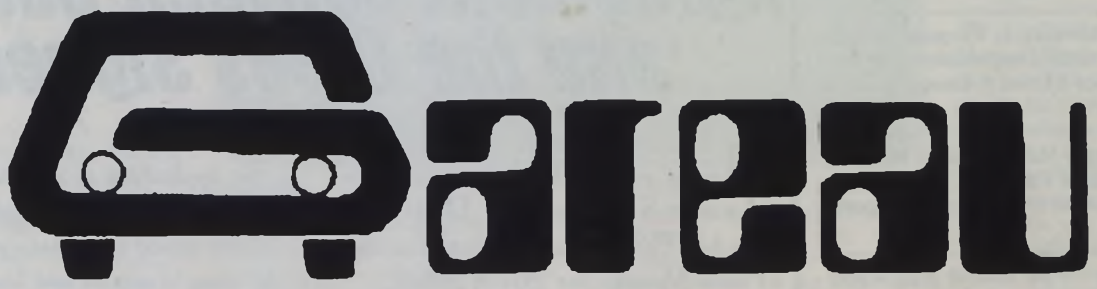

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